

CLAIMS

- [1] A water treatment unit that is detachably attached to an appliance that uses water, the water treatment unit comprising:
a cartridge-type case that has an inflow port and an outflow port that respectively connect to a water feed port and a water receive port provided on the appliance; and
electrodes that are housed inside the case and that exert a water treatment effect when energized.
- [2] The water treatment unit of claim 1,
wherein connector portions via which to energize the electrodes are provided on an exterior surface of the case.
- [3] The water treatment unit of claim 2,
wherein the inflow port and outflow port are arranged concentrically.
- [4] The water treatment unit of claim 3,
wherein the water treatment unit is coupled to the appliance by bayonet coupling means.
- [5] The water treatment unit of claim 3,
wherein the case has an elongate shape, with the inflow port and outflow port disposed near one end thereof and the connector portions disposed near the other end thereof.
- [6] The water treatment unit of claim 5,

wherein the electrodes extend from near the connector portions toward the outflow port, and

wherein, inside the case, a partition wall is formed that guides water that has flowed in through the inflow port toward parts of the electrodes near the connector portions.

[7] The water treatment unit of one of claims 1 to 6,
wherein water is treated by applying a voltage between the electrodes and thereby eluting therefrom metal ions that exert an antimicrobial effect.

[8] An appliance comprising the water treatment unit of one of claims 1 to 6.

[9] An appliance comprising the water treatment unit of claim 7.

[10] The appliance of claim 8,
wherein the water treatment unit is attached to an exterior surface of the appliance.

[11] The appliance of claim 9,
wherein the water treatment unit is attached to an exterior surface of the appliance.

[12] The appliance of claim 8,
wherein the appliance is a washing machine.

[13] The appliance of claim 9,
wherein the appliance is a washing machine.